



Critical Investments: Healthier Communities

While the tough economic times have made providing health care services much more difficult, this budget strengthens North Carolina's commitment to those who rely on critical services. For example:

- ✓ \$14 million for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program in order to reopen the program to new enrollees at or below 125% of the federal poverty line.
- ✓ Restores the \$40 million community mental health reduction which occurred in 2009.
- ✓ \$9 million to purchase additional local private hospital beds for mental health patients who require short term care.

Safer Communities

Gov. Perdue will make North Carolina's communities safer by transforming the way law enforcement works in this state. Increasing technology will put the tools in law enforcement's hands to catch, prosecute and convict criminals. In addition, investments in the probation/parole system will lower caseloads and make North Carolina streets safer. Highlights:

- ✓ An additional \$8.8 million for the Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Automated Data Services (CJLEADS) project that will merge all criminal data records into one interactive and comprehensive system. CJLEADS provides law enforcement and court system personnel more reliable and real-time information.
- ✓ \$4.7 million to expand the VIPER system which ensures that first responders on the ground are adequately equipped to communicate with one another during emergency situations.
- ✓ Funding to begin to establish statewide capacity for law enforcement to collect DNA at the time of the arrest.